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For Immediate Release
January 21, 2021, 1:45 p.m.

NWS Advisories in Effect; Practice Caution in Hazardous Weather

The National Weather Service (NWS) Guam Weather Forecast Office issued an **urban and small stream flood advisory** for Guam until 4:15 p.m. A flood advisory means river or stream flows are elevated, or ponding of water in urban or other areas is occurring or is imminent.

Heavy rain will cause urban and small stream flooding. Overflowing poor drainage areas will result in minor flooding across Guam. One to two inches of rain have already fallen. Additional rainfall of up to two inches is expected in the next two hours.

A **small craft advisory** remains in effect for coastal waters of Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan until Friday afternoon. East winds 15 to 25 knots with gusts up to 30 knots, with combined seas of 8 to 10 feet are expected.

A **small craft advisory** means that wind speeds of 21 to 33 knots are expected to produce wave conditions hazardous to small craft. Inexperienced swimmers, especially those operating smaller vessels should avoid sailing in these conditions.

A **high rip current risk** remains in effect for Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Saipan on east facing reefs of the Mariana Islands until Sunday evening. Rip currents can sweep even the best swimmers away from shore into deeper water. Swim near a lifeguard. If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help.

Residents and visitors are advised to take the following precautionary actions:

- If driving, be alert for low visibilities and slippery roads in heavy rain;
- Slow down where water is ponding on the road;
- Turn Around, Don't Drown. Avoid walking or driving through flood waters. Just 6 inches of moving water can knock you down, and 2 feet of water can sweep your vehicle away;
- Avoid camping, parking, or hiking along streams, rivers, and creeks during heavy rainfall. These areas can flood quickly and with little warning;
- Visit <https://www.ready.gov/floods> to learn more.

The Offices of Guam Homeland Security and Civil Defense (GHS/OCD) remind the community to practice extreme caution while traveling in rainy conditions, driving below the speed limit and allowing enough braking distance between vehicles.

Visit the following links for the latest information:

• NWS Website: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

- NWS Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NWSGuam/>
- GHS/OCD Website: <https://ghs.guam.gov/>
- GHS/OCD Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/GHSOCD/>

For more information, contact Acting Public Information Officer Jaimie Cruz at (671) 688-0438 or via email at jaimie.cruz@ghs.guam.gov.

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